



Governor's Office of Economic Development

State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Signs Tax Credit Legislation for Utah Film Industry

Motion picture incentive helps keep Utah high on the list of places film production companies will produce new movies and television shows.

Salt Lake City, UTAH – Utah's film industry is pleased the Legislature approved a nationally competitive increase in the tax incentive for film makers. It will boost the amount of motion picture productions and digital media projects in the state. Governor Gary R. Herbert signed House Bill 99, Motion Picture Incentives Amendments, into law. The new law will boost the motion picture tax incentive from 20 to up to 25 percent of the dollars left in the state in the form of a fully refundable post performance tax credit or cash rebate. The Legislature approved an ongoing tax credit fund of \$6.8 million for the Motion Picture Incentive Fund (MPIF).

"Our vision for the State of Utah is to be recognized as a premiere global business destination," said Governor Herbert. "The expanded motion picture incentive will enable us to position Utah and its talented motion picture and digital media work force to compete on a global basis for the film and digital media industries. These are important industries to our economy's future."

"The higher rebate will now make us more attractive to the studios and networks and more competitive with other states and countries," said Marshall Moore, director of the Utah Film Commission.

"The Motion Picture Association of Utah is gratified by the passage of HB99," said Don Schain, President of the Motion Picture Association of Utah. "This bill represents a major step forward in the continuing development of a fair and sustainable Motion Picture Incentive. It has long been the MPAU's position that our incentive works because it keeps our industry competitive while providing the State of Utah an attractive return on investment. In these difficult economic times, we are pleased that the Legislature recognized that Film and Television are part of the solution."

Since the MPIF was created in 2004, 65 film projects have received funding, creating 4,725 production jobs and 1, 956 production days. The projects are responsible for leaving nearly \$178 million in the state. Recent films that have received the incentive include all three “High School Musical” movies, the Oscar-nominated “127 Hours,” and the upcoming Walt Disney Studios’ feature film “John Carter of Mars.”

More than 800 films and television movies have been shot in Utah. Formed in 1974, the Utah Film Commission is a part of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and is a member of the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI). For information about filming in Utah, visit <http://www.film.utah.gov> or contact the Utah Film Commission at (800) 453-8824 or (801) 538-8740.

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